



NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



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Middle School Students Virtually Tour Train Station



If there is anything the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us, it's the importance of being adaptable. North Carolina teachers have had to put on their thinking caps to find creative ways of engaging children in their classrooms.

Teachers at Carroll Leadership in Technology Magnet Middle School, located in Raleigh, have been taking their students on virtual field trips across the state. Their most recent stop was Raleigh Union Station on April 14. Facilities Engineer Craig Newton walked students from the observation deck to the ticketing and baggage area where they received a behind the scenes look at those operations. Making their way to the terrace, Newton shared information about the building's architecture, acoustics, history and construction.

Around 30 middle schoolers tuned in during the 45-minute tour, asking questions about working in the railroad industry, whether steam locomotives are used today, and where you can go on a train.



From Childhood Hobby to Rail Chief



SPECTRUMLOCALNEWS.COM

From childhood hobby to rail chief

Jason Orthner went from rail hobbyist to rail planner.

Many people help make North Carolina's railroad system successful, but have you ever wondered who they are? Learn how North Carolina Rail Division Director Jason Orthner turned his childhood love of trains into a career.

Watch the story: [SPECTRUMNEWSLOCAL.COM](https://www.spectrumnewslocal.com).

Interested in a career with the NCDOT Rail Division?

NCDOT's Talent Management Office offers internships for undergraduates and graduates pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics as well as other areas in the transportation industry.

[Learn more about NCDOT's Internship Programs](#)

Matthew Simmons Named Rail Division Deputy Director

Matthew Simmons has been named the new Rail Division Deputy Director. Matthew oversees the operational functions of the Rail Division including the Business Office, Operations & Facilities Branch, Rail Contracts and Rail Programs. He also assists the entire Division in project delivery support, resourcing and problem solving. Matthew has most recently served as manager of the Rail Design and Construction Branch, leading the team who delivers the state's rail infrastructure projects. In addition, for 14 months, he served as the Interim Manager of the Operations and Facilities Branch, leading the team of employees and contractors who keep North Carolina's train operations running smoothly and the state's rail corridors and facilities well maintained.

Matthew joined the Rail Division in 2007 as a Railroad Project Engineer. Before joining NCDOT, Matthew worked for a Maryland engineering firm on all aspects of transportation engineering, including highways, light and heavy rail and Maglev transportation. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech, is a registered Professional Engineer, and is an active member of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA).



Traveling on NC By Train is a Great Way to See What N.C. Cities have to Offer

It's easy to take the train to explore North Carolina cities. This month's feature article in *Our State* magazine is about traveling to Rocky Mount by train along with ideas of fun things while spending the day exploring, eating and shopping.

Read the story at the link below:

[NC By Train: Third Stop, Rocky Mount](#)



Rocky Mount Station

Construction is ongoing at the Carolina Connector (CCX) intermodal terminal in Edgecombe County. Work on assembling the large electric wide span cranes is underway, as shown in the photos below.



Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update



Trade Street looking south toward the block that will be the primary station area for the City's mixed-use development



Construction of south end platform foundations

The Rail Division is leading the planning, design and construction of Charlotte Gateway Station Phase 1. The City of Charlotte is in charge of the effort for Phase 2 with developer Gateway Partners for the large mixed use development and station.

The Phase I project is targeted for completion in 2023. The scope includes building bridges to support passenger rail tracks, a center island level-boarding platform, plus railroad track and signals.

Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update (continued)



Construction of concourse wall



Foundation construction for lower portion of baggage ramp

Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update (continued)



Foundation construction for upper portion of baggage ramp

NCDOT and the Carolina Coastal Railroad Improve Washington County Crossing

Our featured crossing this month is on the Carolina Coastal Railroad. NCDOT Division 1 and Washington County Maintenance assisted the Carolina Coastal Railroad and the Rail Division with improving a crossing on Main Street in Washington. The original asphalt and timber crossing surface was deteriorating, leaving the lag bolts exposed and creating a safety hazard for drivers. The new asphalt and rubber rail seal crossing provides a smoother ride for drivers.



Improved Cabin Flats Road crossing